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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 003181

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/14/2013

TAGS: MASS MARR TU

SUBJECT: SEEBRIG ASSURANCES: GOT STRESSES ITS SIGNATURE TO AGREEMENT IS FORTHCOMING

(U) Classified by Political-Military Counselor Stuart Brown. Reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

(C) On May 12 and 14, Polmiloff spoke with MFA NATO Department Second Secretary Oya Ergin to inquire about the status of Turkey's anticipated signature of the SEEBRIG Assurances. She informed us that everything is on track and that "normal procedures" are in process. The paper work is currently in the Prime Minister's office, awaiting his signature for approval. Polmiloff pressed her to accelerate the process, indicating that Washington as well as other participants of the Communication Information System (CIS) for SEEBRIG are becoming increasingly anxious that deadlines will not be met if Turkey does not immediately sign the agreement. Ergin assured us that Turkey views the CIS as extremely important and has no problems with the agreement. She then continued to say that "it would be wrong to push the Prime Ministry or the TGS at this point as they have just received the paperwork." She said she is hopeful the process will be completed shortly. Polmiloff said she would convey this message to the Department, but that many in Washington were beginning to question Turkey's commitment to this project.

PEARSON